21. To induce more investment for R&D activities, a weighted deduction of 125% on the sums paid to any university, college or an institution or a Scientific research association for the purposes of scientific, social or statistical research has been provided.

22. Information Technology Act, 2000 has been enacted. This act deals with Cyber Security, Cyber Crime and other information security related legal aspects. This will encourage expansion of e-commerce through internet.

23. Software Technology Parks of India (STPI) has set up a business support Centre in the USA, which is operational since November, 1999, to promote business for STP units and provide marketing support to SMEs.

Job opportunities for I.T. Professionals in U.K.

2674. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO : Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether U.K.'s computer software and service association has invited Indian Software Industry for entering into partnership in e-commerce, banking, pharmaceuticals and telecom;

(b) if so, whether Indian I. T. professionals would be offered employment in U.K.; and

(c) the number of such professionals to be appointed in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) : (a) to (c) National Association of Software and Services Companies (NASSCOM) of India has recently signed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Computer Software and Service Associations (CSSA) of U.K., to increase co-operation between the two countries in IT software and services sector. This is likely to increase business to business interactions between two countries, and also off-shore and on-site assignments for IT professionals.

Impact of US attack on Software Export

2675. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO :

SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA:

SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY :

Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) the Software exports made by the country during the last two years;

(b) the software exports in the first two quarters of the current year; and

(c) what according to the assessment made by Government is the impact of the US attacks on Afghanistan on the software exports and the manner in which Government propose to meet the situation?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) : (a) The export of software by the country during the last two financial years :

1999-2000 :	Rs. 17,300 crores
2000-2001 :	Rs. 28,350 crores

(b) Provisional estimates of software export from the country during the first two quarters of the current financial year :

April-June	Rs. 8000 crores
July-September	Rs. 8500 crores

(c) Notwithstanding the general global slowdown, India's software exports will register a robust growth rate of well over 33%. Infact, during Quarters I & II of the current year (2001-2002) the software units of Software Technology Park of India (STPI) have registered an export growth rate of 62%

India's position in I.T.

†2676. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) Whether it is a fact that the country's position in the field of information technology is just a show-off and it is just negligible in several areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that India is lagging behind in the field of hardware;

(d) If so, whether any steps are proposed to be taken to make the country capable and competitive in this direction; and

(e) If so, the details thereof;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.